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Dedicated to the memory of Linda Romola

MUSIC

*Music is —
the subliminal force
that comes to grant
our fellow man
the unascertainable truth —
that radiates and permeates our eternal, spiritual
existence.*

*We many share our disadvantages
as well as our advantages
with one another —
and come to grip our
focal point —
on one subject
unpeculiar to our
interest.*

*But the vibrational
enharmonic sounds
called music —
embrace all facets
of man —
and leaves him in bewilderment as
to what the course
of life really is.*

*Jazz is —
the justification of being
the ascension of the soul,
the zeal of spirit
and the zest of life.*

— Edith C. Batiste

SUMMARY

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared this *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* to present alternatives for the management of **New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park** for consideration by the agency, state and local government, and the public. The *General Management Plan* provides a vision and management framework for the park.

The three conceptual alternatives presented in this document are based on park purpose, significance, management goals, and visitor use goals, which in turn are based on the park's enabling legislation and legislative history and on NPS policies. The plan provides a foundation for park management and use and serves as a guide for park programs and priority setting. The alternative that is finally selected will guide the management and direction of New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park over the next 10 to 15 years.

Alternative A is the no-action, or status quo, alternative. This alternative would not allow the park to achieve its mission; however, it does provide a baseline for comparison with the other alternatives.

Alternative B would emphasize conveying the park's interpretive story through such personal programs as interpretive talks and demonstrations, interpreted performances, seminars, and performances. Educational activities would be given maximum emphasis in this alternative. It would allow the park to assist in the adaptive use of structures related to jazz. Interpretive programming would heavily depend on the involvement of local musicians and educators, thus supporting cultural preservation. Under this alternative, the visitor center would be located at the Old U.S. Mint.

Alternative C would emphasize a strong partnership program between the National Park Service and other entities involved in preserv-

ing the New Orleans jazz tradition. Under alternative C, the National Park Service would provide funding for basic park operations and would work intensively with others to develop partnerships and alternative funding sources for interpretation, visitor use and experiences, and other activities focusing on preserving the jazz tradition. The extent and success of this alternative would depend on substantial support from partners, especially from the private sector. Interpretation media would be extensively used, and the size and scope of park educational and preservation programs would be guided by the development of partnerships. Under this alternative, the visitor center would, at least initially, be located at a complex in Louis Armstrong Park. Alternative C is the National Park Service's **Proposed Action**.

The potential consequences of actions contained in the alternatives on cultural resources, visitor use and experiences, park operations, and the socioeconomic environment have been evaluated. In general, all action alternatives would better protect jazz-related resources than does the current management direction (alternative A).

Alternative B would offer the most direct personal services, provided primarily by the park. Alternative C would be most dependent on partners to accomplish its programs. Under alternative C, cultural resources, visitor experiences, and jazz preservation would be most negatively impacted if partners could not be found. However, if successful, the proposed alternative would achieve the broadest level of interpretation and visitor services and would provide the optimum opportunity for high-quality visitor experiences. Employment resulting from park operations, construction activities, and spin-off tourism would positively benefit the local economy as would partnerships and resulting grants and funding availability. This alternative would be phased

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in gradually and could take years to fully implement.

This *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* will be on public review for 60 days, ending January 25, 1999. Public comments may be sent to the following address:

Superintendent
New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park
365 Canal Street, Suite 2400
New Orleans, LA 70130-1142

Following the review period, the alternatives will be reevaluated based on public comment and will be modified where necessary. Based on this reevaluation, a final *General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* will be drafted.